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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Robert Phillip Conroy, Jr. of Waukegan, who passed away on March 25, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Conroy, Jr. was born on November 6, 1927, in Wichita, Kansas; his parents are Robert Phillip Conroy, Sr. and Edna-Mae (Teevans) Conroy; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Conroy, Jr. served his country with pride and distinction as a member of the United States Army during World War II; having been prepared for service in the European theater when VE Day was announced, he was then shipped out to Hawaii to serve in the Pacific Theater when VJ Day was announced; he ended up serving as one of the first Army forces in Korea during that conflict before his honorable discharge at the rank of Technical Sergeant 5th Class; and

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WHEREAS, After his stint in the Army, Robert Conroy, Jr. attended Kansas State University to become a mechanical engineer; after marrying his first wife, Julia Marshall, he and his family moved to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he worked in experimental design for the Mercury Marine Corporation for many years; after 25 years of marriage, Julie passed away from cancer in 1974; he later married his childhood friend, Ann

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1     Buche, in 1975, and he and his new family moved to Columbus,  
2     Wisconsin; after retiring from Mercury Marine, he started a new  
3     business, All Season Sport & Marine, in Columbus; in 1982, Ann,  
4     Bob and the remaining children at home moved to Waukegan, where  
5     he began working again as an engineer at Outboard Marine  
6     Corporation until his final retirement in 1995; and

7           WHEREAS, Robert Conroy, Jr. enjoyed reading, traveling,  
8     sailing, skiing, snowmobiling, racquetball, planting flowers,  
9     and caring for his cars, especially his 1968 Corvette  
10    convertible; he was a licensed pilot and enjoyed flying a small  
11    private plane; he was a member of the Experimental Aircraft  
12    Association for many years; in recent years, he enjoyed  
13    designing stained glass windows and ornaments, cultivating  
14    geraniums, and volunteering at the Senior Center in Waukegan;  
15    he was also the oldest male participant in the 2009 Walk for  
16    Seniors event at the local center; and

17           WHEREAS, Robert Conroy, Jr. was an active member of the  
18    Saint Anastasia Catholic Church with his wife, Ann; he was also  
19    a regular supporter of the St. Labre Indian School in Montana;  
20    and

21           WHEREAS, Robert Conroy, Jr. was preceded in death by his  
22    parents and his first wife, Julia (Marshall) Conroy; and

1           WHEREAS, Robert Conroy, Jr. is survived by his wife, Ann  
2           Buche Conroy; his children, Mark Conroy (Mary), Susie Buche  
3           (John Koker), Col. Joseph Buche (CJ), Martha Buche (Jim  
4           Pattison), Sarah Serdin (Mark), and James M. J. Buche; his  
5           grandchildren, Walter, Carolyn, Margaret, Abigail, Megan,  
6           Shelby, Kathryn, and William; his sister, Marie Zenker; his  
7           sister-in-law, Helenruth Welsby (Ralph); his brother-in-law,  
8           James Buche (Carolyn); and his many nieces, nephews, and  
9           extended family members; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
11           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
12           his family and friends, the passing of Robert Phillip Conroy,  
13           Jr.; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15           presented to the family of Robert Conroy, Jr. as an expression  
16           of our sympathy.